



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Joseph A. Rice, 6<sup>th</sup> District

Supervisor Joe Sanfelippo, 17<sup>th</sup> District

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## **MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCORECARD: TAXPAYERS DOWN \$700,000 FOR THE WEEK**

*Supervisors Rice and Sanfelippo question budget priorities in view of looming deficit*

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Supervisors Joseph Rice and Joe Sanfelippo released the following joint statement regarding today's County Board approval of a resolution to offer health benefits to domestic partners of County employees:

"Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele made a much publicized attempt to portray himself as the friend of the taxpayer in his announcement earlier this week that he favored restrictions on cashing in accumulated sick leave and vacation time. This measure, which we support, would save about \$50,000 next year."

"However, in the same week, County Executive Abele has also pushed for extending employee health benefits to unmarried "domestic partners" of County employees. The price tag for these new benefits is conservatively estimated at \$750,000 next year alone. The County Board approved the measure at its July 28 meeting and it now awaits the County Executive's signature.

"The net result – County Executive Abele has rung up a \$700,000 new bill for taxpayers in 2012. This action appears to run counter to County Executive Abele's campaign pledge of offering a no tax increase budget," said Supervisor Rice. "Where does he intend to make up this \$700,000 gap? If not through new taxes, then what programs does he intend to cut?"

Supervisors Rice and Sanfelippo urged the County Executive to withhold signing the domestic partner benefit resolution and instead allow the County Board to consider the costs and benefits of these costly new provisions as part of the 2012 County Budget deliberations.

"The budget is the appropriate vehicle for determining if County government can afford to extend new benefits at a time in which we are anticipating a \$51 million budget deficit," Supervisor Sanfelippo added.

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